



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

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#### **NATIONAL WINNERS OF JUNIOR DUCK STAMP DESIGN CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

Budding young artists from Montana, Utah, and Arkansas have been named as the top three national winners of the Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest sponsored by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Every state except Hawaii (which plans to take part this coming year), as well as the District of Columbia, participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program and Design Contest during the past school year.

Service Director Mollie Beattie announced today that 16-year-old Jie Huang of Hamilton, Montana, garnered first place honors with an acrylic painting of a pintail. Second place went to Daniel Murri, age 18, of Sandy, Utah, for his oil painting of a pair of redheads. A colored-pencil drawing of a canvasback duck by Brad Kimbrell, age 18, of Sherwood, Arkansas, took third place.

Modeled after the Service's Federal Duck Stamp art competition, the Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is part of an innovative educational curriculum that teaches youngsters in grades K-12 about wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

"Five years ago, the Junior Duck Stamp was just a fledgling in the nest, yet today the program has spread its wings across the Nation and next year will include the participation of all 50 states," said Service Director Mollie Beattie. "The program successfully fledged because combining science and the arts is a great way for youngsters to excel in both subjects."

Educators use the curriculum throughout the school year and one of the major classroom activities is creating Junior Duck Stamp designs, some of which are entered into a statewide art competition. In each participating state, Junior Duck Stamp design entries are sent in the spring to a designated point where they are judged by a group of people well known or active in the local wildlife art or conservation community.

State "Best of Show" winning designs are then sent to Washington, DC, where the top three national winners are chosen during the Service's celebration of the Federal Duck Stamp's First Day of Sale, held each year on June 30. The judges of the previous year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest select the national Junior Duck Stamp design winners.

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The top three winners are awarded a free trip to Washington, DC, along with their art teachers and one of their parents, the following November to be honored at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

For more information on the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program and Design Contest, contact Program Manager JoAnn Schneider, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Duck Stamp Office, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240; telephone: 202-208-4354.